

the European Union and within the tourism industry to mention a few. Our experiences in SWY has given fundamental insights and new perspectives that we use daily in our professional lives.

Japan has a very special place in our hearts now, and many of us have been back to go learn more about the Japanese society and way of life. We, as Alumni Association, maintain close contact with the Japanese Embassy and participate in their activities, such as the Sakura day, the Birthday of the Emperor and the Memorial Day of the Hiroshima. When the horrible tsunami hit Japan, we were truly shaken and we organized support activities in different places in Sweden, sharing Japanese cultural activities (Japanese dance and Origami folding) with the Swedish people to create awareness and to fundraise. We also strengthened the contacts with other Alumni Associations. Last summer SWYAA from Sweden, Finland and Norway organized a Nordic Reunion which gathered SWY participants from all over the world.

I think Japan should be very proud of their unique program, and try to see ways of improving the SWY, instead of abolishing it. Japan needs strong international connections and young people is the key to this. Through SWY Japan has created a group of devoted Japanese ambassadors here in Sweden and all over the world and a world unique global network for young people. The way forward is to try to improve and make the program even better and even more efficient.

We kindly ask the Japanese Government to reconsider continuing the SWY program.



Åsa Danielsson  
President  
SWYAA Sweden

**UK Ship for World Youth Alumni**

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29<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Dear Ms. Masako Mori, Minister for State for Youth Affairs, Cabinet Office,

I was the National Leader of the Ship for World Youth 14<sup>th</sup> program in 2001 and I am now the acting president of the UK SWY Alumni.

It was with great sadness to hear the Ship for World youth program was to be axed by the outgoing Democratic Party.

On behalf of the UK SWY Alumni I appeal to you to consider the reinstatement of the Ship for World Youth (SWY) budget so the program can continue. The value of this program is priceless for its positive promotion of Japanese values worldwide, fostering peaceful international communication and understanding.

The Ship for World Youth personally inspired me to study and graduate with a masters in Globalisation and Development, visit a English language programme in Mozambique to deliver 2 laptops, visit reunions in Dubai, Egypt, Bahrain and Turkey, host Japanese visitors and visit many Japanese cultural events in the UK. Recently I visited a UNHCR Refugee camp in Kakauma Kenya, researching a Film Aid International Project. This would not have been possible without the contacts I made through SWY.

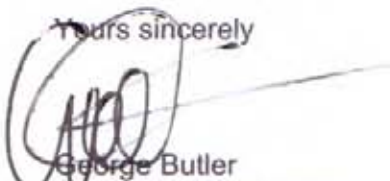
My story is one from many of the countless ways SWY has encouraged positive, peaceful international connections between many different nations as well as substantially increasing the soft-power and understanding of Japan internationally.

SWY is a powerful catalyst for promoting dialogue and engagement between different youth leaders providing a strong platform for showcasing all that is good about Japanese culture.

In a world where countries invest so much time and money in propagating war the SWY program is a small inspiring antidote. SWY influences massive change, sowing the seeds of dialogue between different nations to help avoid future conflicts.

Please do all you can to help reinstate the Ship for World Youth Program, a shining beacon of peace in an ever increasingly violent world.

Yours sincerely



George Butler  
UK SWYAA President

جمعية سفينة شباب العالم-البحرين  
Ship for World Youth Alumni Association - Bahrain



30<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**H.E. Ms. Masako Mori**  
Minister for State for Youth Affairs  
Cabinet Office  
Japan

**Subject: Support for the continuation of the Ship for World Youth Program**

Your Excellency,

We have recently heard the unfortunate news that the Ship for World Youth Program, run by the Cabinet Office, may be cancelled. We are writing Your Excellency today to kindly request your support for the continuation of this program.

As you may know, Bahrain has had the privilege of being invited to participate in 10 of the 25 years that the Ship for World Youth program has been operational, starting almost 15 years ago. As such we can definitively state that the program is unique as a bridge for the development of peace and cultural understanding between the people of the world and the Japanese people. We have witnessed the development of leaders and the fostering of more effective communication, self-esteem and confidence amongst the Bahraini Alumni of the Ship for World Youth program over the years which allowed them to achieve and reach senior positions, both within the government and private sector. The program develops our next generation of leaders, instilling in a sense of responsibility to the community and the world at large. The value of this program cannot be measured in simple financial terms.

Furthermore, several of the Bahraini Alumni have returned to Japan after participating in the program to continue their higher education, several of whom have received PhDs from prestigious Japanese Universities, and have even worked for a time to bridge the cultural gaps between the Arab world and the people of Japan.

In conclusion, we believe strongly that the Ship for World Youth program should continue to inspire generations to come of young leaders from around the world. We look forward to your kind support and understanding in making this happen, with our utmost gratitude and appreciation in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Ahmed Abdulrahman Seyadi  
President